

In order to understand the conflict,
You must take a closer look.

SUMMER PROGRAMMES - ISRAEL



A Religious Mosaic in the Holy Land

**July 7 - August 10,
2010**

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❖ *INTRODUCTION*

Graduate students from all parts of the world are invited to a unique interfaith seminar that will utilize the Galilee in the north of Israel - the origin of religious traditions and the living place of Jews, Christians, Muslims, Druze (and other religious groups) - as a unique laboratory of interfaith dialogue and co-existence.

The participants will spend five weeks in the Holy Land studying the three great monotheistic traditions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam (as well as other traditions which are present in Israel), the history of these traditions, its connections to the Land of Israel / Palestine and its relevance to Modern Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Special attention will be given to the challenge of religious leaders and educators in our days to develop interfaith dialogues, both in Israel and in other parts of the world, in order to foster mutual understanding, tolerance and pluralism instead of hatred and violence.

❖ *PROGRAM STRUCTURE*

The program will be composed of 150 academic hours, divided into four mini-seminars: the first three will be devoted to the three Monotheistic traditions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam

The fourth part will deal with Jerusalem, its religious and national meaning to all monotheistic traditions and its challenge to all who try to develop interfaith understanding and cooperation.

The emphasis of the program will be placed firmly on activities and studies outside the lecture halls. Therefore, the program will include study tours to major point of interest in the Galilee, which are relevant to our multicultural study. Participants will be able to meet directly people of the Galilee and representatives of the discussed traditions.

In addition the program will include panel discussions and workshops where the students explore past and present differences and points of dispute between these traditions and discuss possible ways to overcome current interfaith conflicts.

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❖ ***PARTICIPANTS***

The summer programme is intended for faculty members and graduate students preferably, though not essential, who are in the process of studying courses associated with Religious Studies. All participants must be fluent in English.

❖ ***CURRICULUM***

Background & General Issues

- The Middle East: An Overview
- Milestones in the Region's History
- Israel as a Bridge of Encounters of Religions and Minorities
- Politics in the Contemporary Middle East - Dealing with Contradictions
- Arabs & Jews in the Israeli Media
- Israeli Society: Sociological Structure, Trends and Prospects I + II
- Importance of Religion in the Middle East
- Human Rights Under the Occupation and the Palestinian Authority
- Israel Politics an Overview and Updated

Judaism

- The Hebrew Bible in the Light of Ancient Mesopotamian Literature and Religion
- Calendars in Judea in Second Temple Times (with special attention to the Dead Sea Scrolls)
- The Rise of Jewish Nationalism / Zionism - First, Second and Third Aliyot 1882 - 1923

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- A Survey of Zionist Ideologies: Ber Borochov, AD Gordon, Zev Jabotinsky and Rabbi Kook Middle Eastern Political Demography
- The New Jew: Jewish identity in Israel
- How Israeli and Diaspora Jews See Each Other; Partnership vs. Patronage
- Holiness: Intrinsic or Conventional? a Controversy in Jewish Thought
- Human Freewill In Maimonides and His Interpreters
- Jewish Calendar Holidays Through The Different Periods
- Ultra-Orthodox Jews: Groups, Influences & Relations with the State and with the Diaspora

Christianity

- Christian Ethics, Christian Life
- Creeds & Beliefs: Jesus Christ, Death and Resurrection , Salvation, The Trinity, Eschaton and Afterlife
- History and Origins, Persecution, The Establishment of Christianity and the Christian Church, Western and Eastern Churches - Origins, History and Theological Differences
- The Literature of the New Testament and its Roots in the Land of Israel
- Worship and practices - Liturgical worship, Sacraments, Eucharist, Liturgical Calendar Opportunities & Threats in the Middle East
- Crusaders Kingdom of Jerusalem
- Galilee Centers and Traditions: a) Nazareth b) 'Mar Elias' Vision of Christianity and its Place in Modern Israel

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Islam

- What Does "Islam" Mean? Etymology and meaning
- Principles of Islam: Five Pillars of Islam Shahadah, Salat, Zakat, Sawm, Hajj
- The Many Faces of Sharia (Islamic law)
- Islam between The Past And The Modern World
- The Sunni-Shi'i conflict in Islam in Medieval Islam
- The Sunni-Shi'i conflict in the Modern Middle East
- The Qur`an : Classic and Modern Interpretations
- The Sanctity of Jerusalem in Islam

Comparison Research

- Nationalism in Judah Halevy's Kuzari as a Response to Christianity and Islam
- The Messiah - Prophetic Visions of Redemption - and Later Interpretations
- Christianity Roots in the Judaism
- Life After Death In a Multi-Cultural Perspective
- The Problem of Evil: Jewish and Christian Perspectives
- Afflictions of Love and Love of Afflictions: The Martyr, The Zealot and The Murderer
- The Meeting Points of Islamic and Judaic Mysticism

NOTE: The above curriculum outline is intended as a guide only. The sequence of course offerings is subject to change at the discretion of the administration.

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❖ ***STUDY TOURS:***

- Horn of the Carmel ("Dir el-Muhraka")
- Visit to a Druze Vilage
- Golan Heights & the Lebanese Border
- The Sea of the Galilee as Meeting Point of the Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- Nazareth & Mount Tabor
- Safed - Meeting The Mysticism Kabbalists
- Visit to Shibli (Bedouin Vilage)
- The Crusaders: Kokhav Hayarden, Kalaat Nimrud & The Arbel
- Beit Shearim, Zippori and Megiddo
- Acre & Haifa - Cities of Jewish, Christian, Muslim Co-existence
- Bethlehem & Via Dolorosa, Jerusalem
- Al-Haram Al-Sharif Plaza & the Islamic Museum and Aqsa Library
- Massada & the Dead Sea (including the Qumran caves)

❖ ***SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:***

- The Separation Wall in and around Jerusalem
- Visit to a Jewish Settlement - An Opportunity to Hear from the Right Wing Faction

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❖ ***FEES:***

Tuition Fees:	\$2,850
Local expenses Early birds - October 1st - April 1st:	\$4,200
Late registration -April 2nd - June 1st:	\$4,500

❖ ***SCHOLARSHIPS***

A limited number of tuition scholarships will be available to qualified candidates.

❖ ***Cancellation Fee***

Payment for the programme includes a registration fee which is non-refundable and equals 20% of the total sum of the living expenses fee. Should you decide to cancel your participation, payment will be refunded as follows:

20 days or more before date of course commencement - 80%

10 - 20 days before date of course commencement - 50%

No refunds are possible 10 days or less prior to course commencement.

❖ ***CONTACT DETAILS***

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